

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02849 301322Z  
ACTION SS-25

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P 301251Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9749  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2849

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU  
SUB: GREEK-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER  
BITSIOS

REF: A) ATHENS 2826, B) ATHENS 2833, C) ATHENS 2834

1. YESTERDAY MORNING I SAW TURKISH AMBASSADOR TEZEL ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATION IN ANKARA AND GOT HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT MAJOR ISSUES IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS (REF. A). YESTERDAY AFTERNOON I ALSO HAD A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TO DISCUSS THE VIENNA/CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND THE NEXT PHASE IN OUR BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION NEGOTIATIONS WHICH I REPORTED LAST NIGHT (REF. B AND REF. C). THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES BITSIOS' VIEWS ON SOME OF THE SAME GREEK-TURKISH ISSUES I HAD DISCUSSED WITH TEZEL.

2. BEGIN UNDERLINE CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS END UNDERLINE BITSIOS SAID THAT IT WAS NOT UNTIL MARCH 28 THAT TEZEL HAD PROPOSED TRYING TO SET A DATE FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TZOUNIS-BILGE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT IT HAD BEEN CLEAR IN HIS PROPOSAL THAT THE GOT WAS STILL INSISTING ON "POLITICAL" DISCUSSIONS, RATHER THAN THE PREPARATORY WORK SEEN AS NECESSARY BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND, AS THE GREEKS  
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INSIST, HAD BEEN CONTEMPLATED IN LAST NOVEMBER' BERN AGREEMENT. EVEN SO, THE GOG SAID IT WOULD CONSIDER TEZEL'S MARCH 28 PROPOSAL AND BE IN TOUCH WITH THE GOT AGAIN SOON. BITSIOS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE TURKS WERE NOT SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN PROCEEDING TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS AGREED LAST NOVEMBER AND WERE SIMPLY TRYING TO PLACE THE ONUS ON GREECE FOR THEIR FAILURE TO GET TOGETHER. FURTHERMORE, SINCE THE GOG HAD ONLY RECEIVED

THIS TURKISH PROPOSAL TWO DAYS AGO IT WOULD BE HIGHLY INACCURATE FOR ANYONE TO SUGGEST THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS DELIBERATELY STALL- IN A MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

3. BEGIN UNDERLINE AEGEAN AIR SPACE END UNDERLINE BITSIOS MADE THE SAME GENERAL POINT ON THE TURKISH AIR SPACE PROPOSAL, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS A NEW AND COMPREHENSIVE ONE THAT SET ASIDE MANY OF THE PRELIMINARILY AGREED POINTS. THIS LATEST TURKISH PROPOSAL WAS ONLY RECEIVED IN ATHENS A WEEK AGO AND CERTAIN CLARIFICATIONS CONCERNING IT HAD TO BE REQUESTED FROM ANKARA. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WAS BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED. BITSIOS SAID THE GOG WOULD NOT BE DILATORY IN RESPONDING TO IT.

4. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE AND CAGLAYANGIL WOULD BOTH BE IN STRASBOURG ON APRIL 27 AND THAT HE ANTICIPATED THEY WOULD DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER MAJOR, OPEN QUESTIONS IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AT THAT TIME.

5. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO POINT OUT TO BITSIOS THAT I HAD SEEN SOME NEWSPAPER STORIES IN THE LAST DAY OR TWO, ATTRIBUTED TO "WELL INFORMED ATHENS SOURCES", WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CLIFFORD REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ASSERTING THAT "THE U.S. SIDE" CONSIDERED TURKISH VIEWS ON SOME HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN THE AREA AS BEING "ARROGANT". I TOLD BITSIOS THAT THOSE COMMENTS HAD NOT COME FROM ME OR MY EMBASSY AND THAT I THOUGHT IF ANYONE IN THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WERE PRESUMING TO SPEAK ON SUCH MATTERS ON BEHALF OF THE USG THEY WERE TAKING A VERY BIG RISK BECAUSE WHAT HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS WAS NOT CORRECT AND WE MIGHT AT SOME POINT HAVE TO ISSUE A DENIAL. BITSIOS DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE

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THAT HE KNEW WHO THE SOURCE OF THE STORIES WAS BUT HE SAID THAT I COULD BE SURE THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING ANY SUCH STATEMENTS, EVEN ON A BACKGROUND BASIS. I THINK THE POINT WAS WORTH MAKING, HOWEVER, AND I ALSO THINK THAT HE--AND THROUGH HIM, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY--COULD USE THIS REMINDER THAT WE ARE CLOSELY WATCHING WHAT THEY SAY AND DO.

KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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